UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/920,391	08/01/2001	John R. Perry	33-XZ-6083	5531

7590 02/23/2005

Stephen M. Miller
McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.
34th Floor
500 W. Madison Street
Chicago, IL 60661

EXAMINER	
NATNAEL, PAULOS M	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2614	

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/920,391	PERRY, JOHN R.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Paulos M. Natnael	2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *8/10/08*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *9-12 and 39* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *13-34 and 40-43* is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *9-12, 39* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims **9,13,22,23,30,and 32** are objected to because of the following informalities: the claimed "the bus attached to the first and second input modules", in all occurrences, should read instead, "the bus attached to the output of the first and second input modules". Similarly, the limitation, "first and second output modules attached to the bus", should instead read "first and second output modules attached to the output of bus", etc.

Appropriate correction (for all such occurrences) is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims **9-12, 39** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Sokawa** et al, U.S. Pat. No. **6,353,460** in view of Burton, U.S. Pat. No. 5,528,283.

Considering claim **9**, Sokawa discloses the following claimed subject matter, note;

a) a first input module having a first video standard and converting a first input video signal to third video signal, is met by A/D converter that receives input from the PC, Fig.24;

b) a second input module having a second video standard and converting a second input video signal to the third video signal, is met by A/D converter that receives baseband video input BB, Fig.24;

c) a bus attached to the first and second input modules..., is met by bus connecting the A/D converters the Muse-Dec and NTSC-DEC to the image processor, fig.24;

d) a first output module attached to the bus and having a fourth video standard, is met by D/A which outputs a converted video signal, Fig.24; (see also col. 29, 25-30 and 43-52)

e) a second output module attached to the bus and having a fifth video standard, is met by the D/A converter which outputs a video signal to the monitor, the video signal having been converted in the image processor, fig.24; (see also col. 29, 25-30 and 43-52)

f) wherein the fourth video standard is different from the fifth video standard, is met by the output video signals from D/A converters to the monitor and to the output terminal,

fig.24, wherein is disclosed the monitor and the VTR outputs as two different standards. (see disclosure on col. 29, 25-30)

Except for;

g) a bus ...having a third video standard;

Regarding g), Sokawa et al does not specifically disclose whether or not the bus has a different video standard than the input and output modules. Nor does Sokowa et al preclude the bus from having a separate or different standard. Furthermore, is well known in the art for data busses to have different standards or frequencies for carrying different video signals with different frequencies. In that regard, Burton discloses switched video distribution apparatus in which Burton teaches that "An 1X8 multiplexer 76 may be used to completer the connection of the selected channel to the correct subscriber. An RF multiplexer 76 connects to a particular one of a plurality of subscriber busses 78 and thereby combines an individual selected channel with other video signals provided by other SCSUs on the particular subscriber bus at different frequencies." {Emphasis added} Therefore, it would have been obvious to the skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Sokawa et al. by providing a bus system such as that of Burton which has different standard and/or different frequencies than the input and output video signals, so that the bus system would be equipped to handle any type of video data and process it correctly and efficiently.

Considering claim **10,** the claimed wherein a first input module is a dual-input module connected to two input video signals;

Regarding claim 10, the reference of Sokawa et al discloses that the system accepts a plurality of different standard input signals. Sokawa et al does not specifically disclose whether the input module (A/D) would be a dual input module. However, the Examiner takes Official Notice in that dual-input devices are notoriously well known in the art and, thus, it would have been obvious to the skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Sokawa et al. by providing a dual-input device so that the user may choose one input signal from the dual input signals and more importantly by using a dual-input device the system would eliminate the need for another input module and save cost of the system by making it more compact.

Considering claim **11,** wherein at least one of the output modules is a dual-output module having two connectors for connection to devices with the same standard.

Regarding claim 4, the Sokawa et al reference does not specifically discloses a dual-output module. However, the Examiner takes Official Notice in that dual-output device are notoriously well known in the art and, thus, it would have been obvious to the skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Sokawa by providing a dual-output module so that another output module would be eliminated from the circuitry which would save cost of the system because the system would be more compact.

Considering claim **12, t**he VSC of claim 9, wherein the first and second video standards are selected from the group consisting of OECHI-Res monochrome, Dual NTSC/PAL S-I Video, VESA computer video, HDTV, and Digital Video, is met by the NTSC signals displayed on the monitor and by the video signal recorded in the VTR that is outputted through the "output terminal", Fig.24. (col. 29, lines 25-30)

Considering claim **39**, the claimed third video standard includes the aspect ratio of a video image, is met by the disclosure "The "video device" and the "display format" as used herein are defined to include the number of horizontal scanning lines, the aspect ratio, interlace scanning/non-interlace scanning, and the frequency of fields". (col. 11, 9-19)

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 8/10/04 concerning claims 9-12 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that Sokawa et al does not disclose or suggest a bus attached to the first and second input modules and having its own video standard...And that Burton does not disclose or suggest converting the format of signals to a video standard of the bus.

Burton was used as a teaching reference in that Burton discloses other video signals provided by other SCSUs on the particular subscriber bus at different

frequencies." Thus, Applicants cannot shows non-obviousness by attacking references individually where, as here the rejections are based on combination of references. In re Keller, 208, USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981) Sokawa discloses the bus system accepting video signals of different frequencies and therefore it would have a bus standard or frequency. whether or not the bus has a different video standard than the input and output modules. Sokawa et al does not preclude the bus from having such different standard. The format converter converts the input bus frequency to the monitor and output terminal standards or frequencies as needed. Otherwise, it would be wasteful to utilize different outputs if the Sokawa reference was not intended to utilize it for a different standard. Further, Sokowa discloses that the receiver with the image processor is adaptive to a variety of video signals such as a monitor output signal PC, a baseband signal from a VTR, HDTV signal, and an NTSC signal. All these have different frequencies or standards. (see col. 29, lines 18-63) Therefore, the argument that Sokawa et al does not disclose or suggest a bus attached to the first and second input modules and having its own video standard", is unpersuasive.

The applicant also argues that the examiner didn't provide references when taking the Official Notice. Applicant is directed to page 11 of the previous office action and the references, Opittek and Hayes, specifically cited there for that purpose,

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims **13-34, 40-43** allowable over the prior art.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art fails to disclose a system for converting video standards comprising: a first input module receiving an analog video signal from a first video source and converting the analog video signal to a digital video signal, wherein the first input module converts the first analog video signal from a standard of the first video source to a bus standard; a second input module receiving an analog video signal from a second video source and converting the analog video signal to a digital video signal, wherein the second input module converts the first analog video signal from a standard of the second video source to a bus standard; a bus attached to the first and second input modules; an input selection and control device (ISC) for selecting at least one of the first and second input modules to drive the bus; first and second output modules attached to the bus; a first video device attached to the first output module; and wherein the first output module converts a standard of a video signal from a bus standard to a standard of the first video device, as in claim 13;

A system for converting video standards comprising: a first input module receiving an analog video signal from a first video source and converting the analog video signal to a digital video signal, wherein the first input module converts the first analog video signal from a standard of the first video source to a bus standard; a second input module receiving an analog video signal from a second video source and converting the analog video signal to a digital video signal, wherein the second input module converts the first analog video signal from a standard of the second video source to a bus standard; a bus attached to the first and second input modules; an input

selection and control device (ISC) for selecting at least one of the first and second input modules to drive the bus; a computer for controlling the ISC; first and second output modules attached to the bus; a first video device attached to the first output module; a second video device attached to the second output module; and wherein the first output module converts a standard of a video signal from a bus standard to a standard of the first video device; wherein a video standard of the first output module is different from a video standard of the second output module; wherein the first and second video devices have different standards, as in claim **22**;

A system for displaying images from two sources, the system comprising: a first input module converting a first analog video signal to a first digital video signal wherein the first input module converts the first analog video signal from a standard of the first video source to a bus standard;; a second input module converting a second analog video signal to a second digital video signal, wherein the second input module converts the first analog video signal from a standard of the second video source to a bus standard; a bus attached to the first and second input modules; a first output module attached to the bus; a second output module attached to the bus; a first display device attached to one of the first and second output modules; and wherein the bus drives the first output module to convert the first and second digital video signals to respective first and second analog display signals containing images for reception by the first display device; wherein at least a portion of each image from the first and second analog display signals is displayed on the first display device, as in claim **23**;

a system for displaying images from two sources, the system comprising: a first input module converting a first analog video signal to a first digital video signal wherein the first input module converts the first analog video signal from a standard of the first video source to a bus standard;; a second input module converts a second analog video signal to a second digital video signal wherein the second input module converts the first analog video signal from a standard of the second video source to a bus standard; a bus attached to the first and second input modules; a first output module attached to the bus; a second output module attached to the bus; a first display device attached to the first output module; a second display device attached to the second output module; and wherein the first output module converts the first and second digital video signals to respective first and second analog display signals containing images for reception by the first display device; wherein at least a portion of each image from the first and second analog display signals is displayed on the first display device; wherein the first and second display devices have different standards, as in claim **30**.

A method for converting a plurality of video sources having a plurality of different standards, the method comprising the steps of: providing a video standards converter (VSC) comprising: a first input module; a second input module; a bus attached to the first and second input modules; a first output module attached to the bus; a second output module attached to the bus; employing one of the first and second input modules to convert a video signal from analog to digital wherein the second input module converts the first analog video signal from a standard of the second video source to a bus standard; employing the bus to drive one of the first and second output modules to

convert the video signal from digital to analog; selecting one of the first and second input modules to place a video signal onto the bus; and positioning the video signal as the signal is placed on the bus, as in claim **32**;

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paulos M. Natnael whose telephone number is (703) 305-0019. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on (703) 305-4795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PAULOS M. NATNAEL
PATENT EXAMINER

PMN
February 18, 2005